



CONSTITUTION

(FUNDAMENTAL LAW)

OF THE UNION

342.47 VIET SOCIALIST
PPM PUBLICS

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CONSTITUTION

(FUNDAMENTAL LAW)

OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS



*As Amended and Supplemented
at the Third Session
of the Ninth Supreme Soviet
of the U.S.S.R.*



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Chapter I
THE SOCIAL STRUCTURE





ARTICLE 1

The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics shall be a socialist state of workers and peasants.

ARTICLE 2

The Soviets of Working People's Deputies, which arose and developed as a result of the overthrow of the power of the landowners and capitalists and of the attainment of the dictatorship of the proletariat, shall constitute the political foundation of the U.S.S.R.

ARTICLE 3

All power in the U.S.S.R. shall be vested in the working people of town and country as represented by the Soviets of Working People's Deputies.

ARTICLE 4

The socialist economic system and socialist property in the instruments and means of production, firmly established as a result of the abolition of the capitalist economic system, private ownership of the instruments and means of production, and the exploitation of man by man, shall constitute the economic foundation of the U.S.S.R.

ARTICLE 5

Socialist property in the U.S.S.R. shall exist either as state property (belonging to the whole people) or as co-operative

and collective-farm property (belonging to collective farms or co-operative societies).

ARTICLE 6

The land, its mineral wealth, waters, forests, the factories, mills, mines, railways, water and air transport, the banks, means of communication, large state-run agricultural enterprises (state farms, machine-and-tractor stations, etc.), municipal enterprises and the bulk of urban housing shall be state property, that is, property belonging to the whole people.

ARTICLE 7

The common, socialist property of the collective farms and co-operative organisations shall comprise the communal enterprises of collective farms and co-operative organisations with their live-

stock and implements, the output of the collective farms and co-operative organisations, as well as their communal buildings.

In addition to its basic income from communal farming, every collective-farm household shall have a small plot of land attached to the house for its own use and, as its personal property, a subsidiary husbandry—a house, livestock, poultry and minor agricultural implements—in conformity with the rules of the agricultural artel.

ARTICLE 8

The land occupied by collective farms shall be allocated to them for their free use for an unlimited time, that is, forever.

ARTICLE 9

In addition to the socialist economic system, which is the predominant economic form in the U.S.S.R., the law shall

permit small private undertakings of individual peasants and handicraftsmen, based on their own labour and precluding the exploitation of the labour of others.

ARTICLE 10

The law shall protect the right of citizens to have personal property in the form of earned income and savings, a house and a subsidiary husbandry, articles of household and personal use and convenience, and also the right of citizens to inherit personal property.

ARTICLE 11

The state economic plan shall determine and guide the economic affairs of the U.S.S.R. for the purpose of increasing the wealth of society, steadily raising the

material and cultural standards of the working people, and strengthening the independence of the U.S.S.R. and its defence potential.

ARTICLE 12

It shall be the duty and honour of every able-bodied citizen in the U.S.S.R. to work, according to the principle "he who would not work, neither shall he eat".

The U.S.S.R. shall apply the socialist principle of "from each according to his ability, to each according to his work".



Chapter II
THE STATE STRUCTURE





ARTICLE 13

The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics shall be a federal state, formed on the basis of a voluntary union of the following Soviet Socialist Republics enjoying equal rights:

Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic,

Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic,

Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic,

Uzbek Soviet Socialist Republic,

Kazakh Soviet Socialist Republic,

Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic,

Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic,

Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic,
Moldavian Soviet Socialist Republic,
Latvian Soviet Socialist Republic,
Kirghiz Soviet Socialist Republic,
Tajik Soviet Socialist Republic,
Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic,
Turkmen Soviet Socialist Republic,
Estonian Soviet Socialist Republic.

ARTICLE 14

The jurisdiction of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, as represented by its higher organs of state power and organs of state administration, shall extend to:

- (I) representation of the U.S.S.R. in international relations, conclusion, ratification and denunciation of treaties of the U.S.S.R. with other states, establishment of general procedure governing the relations of the Union Republics with foreign states;

- (II) issues of war and peace;
- (III) admission of new Republics into the U.S.S.R.;
- (IV) control over the observance of the Constitution of the U.S.S.R., and ensuring conformity of the Constitutions of the Union Republics with the Constitution of the U.S.S.R.;
- (V) approval of changes to boundaries between the Union Republics;
- (VI) approval of the formation of new Autonomous Republics and Autonomous Regions within Union Republics;
- (VII) organisation of the defence of the U.S.S.R., direction of its Armed Forces, formulation of principles guiding the organisation of the military formations of the Union Republics;

- (VIII) foreign trade on the basis of state monopoly;
- (IX) state security;
- (X) determination of the economic plans of the U.S.S.R.;
- (XI) approval of the single state budget of the U.S.S.R. and of the report on its execution, determination of taxes and other revenues that go to the Union, Republican and local budgets;
- (XII) administration of the banks and industrial, agricultural and trading enterprises and institutions under Union jurisdiction; general direction of industry and construction under Union-Republican jurisdiction;
- (XIII) administration of transport and communications of all-Union importance;

- (XIV) direction of the monetary and credit system;
- (XV) organisation of state insurance;
- (XVI) contracting and granting of loans;
- (XVII) definition of the basic principles of land tenure and of the use of mineral wealth, forests and waters;
- (XVIII) definition of the basic principles of public education and health;
- (XIX) organisation of a uniform system of national economic statistics;
- (XX) definition of the fundamentals of labour legislation;
- (XXI) definition of the fundamentals of legislation on the judicial system and judicial procedure and the fundamentals of civil, criminal and corrective labour legislation;

- (XXII) legislation on Union citizenship; legislation on rights of foreign nationals;
- (XXIII) definition of the fundamentals of legislation on marriage and the family;
- (XXIV) promulgation of all-Union acts of amnesty.

ARTICLE 15

The sovereignty of the Union Republics shall be limited only in the spheres defined in Article 14 of the Constitution of the U.S.S.R. Outside of these spheres each Union Republic shall exercise state authority independently. The U.S.S.R. shall protect the sovereign powers of the Union Republics.

ARTICLE 16

Every Union Republic shall have its own Constitution with due account for

the specific features of the Republic and drawn up in full conformity with the Constitution of the U.S.S.R.

ARTICLE 17

Every Union Republic shall have the right freely to secede from the U.S.S.R.

ARTICLE 18

The territory of a Union Republic may not be altered without its consent.

ARTICLE 18-a

Every Union Republic shall have the right to enter into direct relations with foreign states and to conclude agreements and exchange diplomatic and consular representatives with them.

ARTICLE 18-b

Every Union Republic shall have its own republican military formations.

ARTICLE 19

The laws of the U.S.S.R. shall have the same force within the territory of every Union Republic.

ARTICLE 20

In the event of any conflict between a law of a Union Republic and a law of the Union, the Union law shall prevail.

ARTICLE 21

Single Union citizenship shall be established for the citizens of the U.S.S.R.

Every citizen of a Union Republic shall be a citizen of the U.S.S.R.

ARTICLE 22

The Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic shall include the Bashkir, Buryat, Checheno-Ingush, Chuvash, Dagestan, Kabardin-Balkar, Kalmyk, Karelian, Komi, Mari, Mordovian, North Ossetian, Tatar, Tuva, Udmurt and Yakut Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republics; and the Adygei, Gorno-Altai, Jewish, Karachai-Circassian and Khakass Autonomous Regions.

ARTICLE 23

Repealed.

ARTICLE 24

The Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic shall include the Nakhichevan Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic and the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region.

ARTICLE 25

The Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic shall include the Abkhazian and Adzhar Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republics and the South Ossetian Autonomous Region.

ARTICLE 26

The Uzbek Soviet Socialist Republic shall include the Karakalpak Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic.

ARTICLE 27

The Tajik Soviet Socialist Republic shall include the Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region.

ARTICLE 28

The settlement of questions pertaining to the administrative division of the Union Republics into regions and territories shall come within the jurisdiction of the Union Republics.

ARTICLE 29

Repealed.



Chapter III

**HIGHER ORGANS
OF STATE POWER
IN THE UNION
OF SOVIET SOCIALIST
REPUBLICS**





ARTICLE 30

The U.S.S.R. Supreme Soviet shall be the highest organ of state power in the U.S.S.R.

ARTICLE 31

The U.S.S.R. Supreme Soviet shall exercise all rights vested in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in accordance with Article 14 of the Constitution, insofar as they do not, by virtue of the Constitution, come within the jurisdiction of the

U.S.S.R. organs which are accountable to the U.S.S.R. Supreme Soviet, e.g., the Presidium of the U.S.S.R. Supreme Soviet, the U.S.S.R. Council of Ministers and the U.S.S.R. Ministries.

ARTICLE 32

The legislative power of the U.S.S.R. shall be exercised exclusively by the U.S.S.R. Supreme Soviet.

ARTICLE 33

The U.S.S.R. Supreme Soviet shall consist of two chambers: the Soviet of the Union and the Soviet of Nationalities.

ARTICLE 34

The Soviet of the Union shall be elected by U.S.S.R. citizens voting by constituencies on the basis of one deputy for every 300,000 people.

ARTICLE 35

The Soviet of Nationalities shall be elected by U.S.S.R. citizens voting by Union Republics, Autonomous Republics, Autonomous Regions, and National Areas on the basis of 32 deputies from each Union Republic, 11 deputies from each Autonomous Republic, 5 deputies from each Autonomous Region, and one deputy from each National Area.

ARTICLE 36

The U.S.S.R. Supreme Soviet shall be elected for a term of four years.

ARTICLE 37

The two chambers of the U.S.S.R. Supreme Soviet, the Soviet of the Union and the Soviet of Nationalities, shall have equal rights.

ARTICLE 38

The Soviet of the Union and the Soviet of Nationalities shall have equal powers to initiate legislation.

ARTICLE 39

A law shall be deemed enacted if passed by both chambers of the U.S.S.R. Supreme Soviet by a simple majority vote in each.

ARTICLE 40

Laws passed by the U.S.S.R. Supreme Soviet shall be published in the languages of the Union Republics over the signatures of the President and Secretary of the Presidium of the U.S.S.R. Supreme Soviet.

ARTICLE 41

Sessions of the Soviet of the Union and of the Soviet of Nationalities shall begin and terminate simultaneously.

ARTICLE 42

The Soviet of the Union shall elect a Chairman of the Soviet of the Union and four Vice-Chairmen.

ARTICLE 43

The Soviet of Nationalities shall elect a Chairman of the Soviet of Nationalities and four Vice-Chairmen.

ARTICLE 44

The Chairmen of the Soviet of the Union and the Soviet of Nationalities shall preside over sittings of the respective chambers and have charge of the conduct of their business and proceedings.

ARTICLE 45

Joint sittings of the two chambers of the U.S.S.R. Supreme Soviet shall be presided over in turn by the Chairman of the Soviet of the Union and the Chairman of the Soviet of Nationalities.

ARTICLE 46

Sessions of the U.S.S.R. Supreme Soviet shall be convened by the Presidium of the U.S.S.R. Supreme Soviet twice a year.

Extraordinary sessions shall be convened by the Presidium of the U.S.S.R. Supreme Soviet at its discretion or at the bidding of one of the Union Republics.

ARTICLE 47

In the event of disagreement between the Soviet of the Union and the Soviet of

Nationalities, the question at issue shall be referred for settlement to a conciliation commission formed by the chambers on a parity basis. If the conciliation commission fails to arrive at an agreement or if its decision fails to satisfy one of the chambers, the question is considered for a second time by the chambers. Failing agreement between the two chambers, the Presidium of the U.S.S.R. Supreme Soviet shall dissolve the U.S.S.R. Supreme Soviet and appoint new elections.

ARTICLE 48

The U.S.S.R. Supreme Soviet at a joint sitting of the two chambers shall elect the Presidium of the U.S.S.R. Supreme Soviet, consisting of the President of the Presidium of the U.S.S.R. Supreme Soviet, fifteen Vice-Presidents—one representing each Union Republic, the Presidium Secretary and twenty Presidium members.

The Presidium of the U.S.S.R. Supreme Soviet shall be accountable to the U.S.S.R. Supreme Soviet in all its activities.

ARTICLE 49

The Presidium of the U.S.S.R. Supreme Soviet shall:

- (I) convene sessions of the U.S.S.R. Supreme Soviet;
- (II) issue ordinances;
- (III) interpret the laws of the U.S.S.R. in force;
- (IV) dissolve the U.S.S.R. Supreme Soviet in conformity with Article 47 of the U.S.S.R. Constitution and appoint new elections;
- (V) conduct nation-wide polls (referendums) on its initiative or at the bidding of one of the Union Republics;

- (VI) revoke decisions and orders of the U.S.S.R. Council of Ministers and of the Councils of Ministers of the Union Republics where they do not conform to the law;
- (VII) release or appoint U.S.S.R. Ministers in the recesses of the U.S.S.R. Supreme Soviet, on the recommendation of the Chairman of the U.S.S.R. Council of Ministers, subject to confirmation by the U.S.S.R. Supreme Soviet;
- (VIII) institute decorations (Orders and Medals) and titles of honour of the U.S.S.R.;
- (IX) award Orders and Medals and confer titles of honour of the U.S.S.R.;
- (X) exercise the right of pardon;
- (XI) institute military titles, diplomatic ranks and other special titles;

- (XII) appoint and remove the supreme command of the Armed Forces of the U.S.S.R.;
- (XIII) in the recesses of the U.S.S.R. Supreme Soviet, proclaim a state of war in the event of an armed attack on the U.S.S.R., or where necessary to fulfil international treaty obligations providing for mutual defence against aggression;
- (XIV) order general or partial mobilisation;
- (XV) ratify and denounce U.S.S.R. international treaties;
- (XVI) appoint or recall plenipotentiary representatives of the U.S.S.R. to foreign states;
- (XVII) receive the letters of credence and recall of diplomatic representatives accredited to it by foreign states;
- (XVIII) proclaim martial law in sepa-

rate localities or throughout the U.S.S.R. in the interest of its defence or of the maintenance of public order and state security.

ARTICLE 50

The Soviet of the Union and the Soviet of Nationalities shall elect Credentials Committees which shall verify the credentials of the members of the respective chambers.

On the strength of the Credentials Committees' reports, the chambers shall decide whether to recognise the credentials of deputies or to declare their election void.

ARTICLE 51

The U.S.S.R. Supreme Soviet shall appoint investigation and audit commissions on any matter, when it so chooses.

It shall be the duty of all institutions and officials to comply with the demands of these commissions and to submit to them all the necessary materials and documents.

ARTICLE 52

A member of the U.S.S.R. Supreme Soviet may not be prosecuted or arrested without the authorisation of the U.S.S.R. Supreme Soviet, or, when the U.S.S.R. Supreme Soviet is not in session, without the authorisation of the Presidium of the U.S.S.R. Supreme Soviet.

ARTICLE 53

On the expiry of the term of the U.S.S.R. Supreme Soviet, or on its dissolution prior to the expiry of its term, the Presidium of the U.S.S.R. Supreme Soviet shall retain its powers until the newly

elected U.S.S.R. Supreme Soviet has formed a new Presidium.

ARTICLE 54

On the expiry of the term of the U.S.S.R. Supreme Soviet, or in the event of its dissolution prior to the expiry of its term, the Presidium of the U.S.S.R. Supreme Soviet shall appoint new elections to be held within a period not exceeding two months from the date of expiry or dissolution.

ARTICLE 55

The newly elected U.S.S.R. Supreme Soviet shall be convened by the outgoing Presidium of the U.S.S.R. Supreme Soviet not later than three months after the elections.

ARTICLE 56

The U.S.S.R. Supreme Soviet, at a joint sitting of the two chambers, shall form the Government of the U.S.S.R., namely, the Council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R.



Chapter IV

**HIGHER ORGANS
OF STATE POWER
IN THE UNION
REPUBLICS**





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ARTICLE 57

The Supreme Soviet of a Union Republic shall be the highest organ of state power in the Union Republic.

ARTICLE 58

The Supreme Soviet of a Union Republic shall be elected for a term of four years by the citizens of the Union Republic.

The rate of representation shall be established by the Constitution of the Union Republic.

ARTICLE 59

The Supreme Soviet of a Union Republic shall be the sole legislative organ of the Republic.

ARTICLE 60

The Supreme Soviet of a Union Republic shall:

- (I) adopt the Constitution of the Republic and amend it in conformity with Article 16 of the U.S.S.R. Constitution;
- (II) confirm the Constitutions of the constituent Autonomous Republics and define the boundaries of their territory;
- (III) approve the economic plan and the budget of the Republic;
- (IV) exercise the right of amnesty and pardon of citizens sentenced

by the judicial bodies of the Union Republic;

(V) decide upon the representation of the Union Republic in international relations;

(VI) determine the organisation of the Republic's military formations.

ARTICLE 61

The Supreme Soviet of a Union Republic shall elect the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Union Republic, which shall consist of the President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, Vice-Presidents, the Presidium Secretary and Presidium members.

The powers of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of a Union Republic shall be defined by the Constitution of the Union Republic.

ARTICLE 62

The Supreme Soviet of a Union Republic shall elect a Chairman and Vice-Chairmen to conduct its sittings.

ARTICLE 63

The Supreme Soviet of a Union Republic shall form the Government of the Union Republic, namely, the Council of Ministers of the Union Republic.



Chapter V

**ORGANS
OF STATE ADMINISTRATION
IN THE UNION OF SOVIET
SOCIALIST REPUBLICS**





ARTICLE 64

The U.S.S.R. Council of Ministers shall be the highest executive and administrative organ of state power in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

ARTICLE 65

The U.S.S.R. Council of Ministers shall be responsible and accountable to the U.S.S.R. Supreme Soviet, or, in the recesses of the Supreme Soviet, it shall be accountable to the Presidium of the U.S.S.R. Supreme Soviet.

ARTICLE 66

The U.S.S.R. Council of Ministers shall issue decisions and orders on the basis and in pursuance of the laws in force and shall verify their execution.

ARTICLE 67

Decisions and orders of the U.S.S.R. Council of Ministers shall be binding throughout the territory of the U.S.S.R.

ARTICLE 68

The U.S.S.R. Council of Ministers shall:

- (I) co-ordinate and direct the work of the all-Union and Union-Republican Ministries of the U.S.S.R., the State Committees of the U.S.S.R. Council of Ministers

and of other bodies under its jurisdiction;

- (II) adopt measures to implement the national economic plan, execute the state budget, and consolidate the credit and monetary system;
- (III) adopt measures to maintain public order, protect state interests and safeguard the rights of citizens;
- (IV) exercise general guidance in the sphere of relations with foreign states;
- (V) fix the annual contingent of citizens liable for active military service and direct the general organisation of the Armed Forces of the country;
- (VI) set up State Committees of the U.S.S.R. and, where necessary, special Committees and Chief Boards under the U.S.S.R. Council of Ministers for economic and cultural affairs and defence.

ARTICLE 69

The U.S.S.R. Council of Ministers shall have the right, in respect of those branches of administration and economy which come within the jurisdiction of the U.S.S.R., to suspend decisions and orders of the Councils of Ministers of the Union Republics and to revoke orders and instructions of the Ministers of the U.S.S.R. and also statutory acts of other bodies under its jurisdiction.

ARTICLE 70

The U.S.S.R. Council of Ministers shall be formed by the U.S.S.R. Supreme Soviet and consist of:

Chairman of the U.S.S.R. Council of Ministers;

First Vice-Chairmen of the U.S.S.R. Council of Ministers;

Vice-Chairmen of the U.S.S.R. Council of Ministers;

Ministers of the U.S.S.R.;

Chairman of the State Planning Committee of the U.S.S.R. Council of Ministers;

Chairman of the State Building Committee of the U.S.S.R. Council of Ministers;

Chairman of the State Committee of the U.S.S.R. Council of Ministers for Material and Technical Supply;

Chairman of the People's Control Committee of the U.S.S.R.;

Chairman of the State Labour and Wages Committee of the U.S.S.R. Council of Ministers;

Chairman of the State Committee of the U.S.S.R. Council of Ministers for Science and Technology;

Chairman of the State Committee of the U.S.S.R. Council of Ministers for Inventions and Discoveries;

Chairman of the State Price Committee of the U.S.S.R. Council of Ministers;

Chairman of the State Standards Committee of the U.S.S.R. Council of Ministers;

Chairman of the State Committee of the U.S.S.R. Council of Ministers for Vocational Training;

Chairman of the State Television and Radio Committee of the U.S.S.R. Council of Ministers;

Chairman of the State Cinema Committee of the U.S.S.R. Council of Ministers;

Chairman of the State Committee for the Printing and Publishing Industry and Book Sale of the U.S.S.R. Council of Ministers;

Chairman of the State Forestry Committee of the U.S.S.R. Council of Ministers;

Chairman of the State Foreign Economic Relations Committee of the U.S.S.R. Council of Ministers;

Chairman of the State Security Committee under the U.S.S.R. Council of Ministers;

Chairman of the All-Union "Soyuzselkhoztekhnika" Association of the U.S.S.R. Council of Ministers;

Chairman of the Administrative Board of the U.S.S.R. State Bank;

Chief of the Central Statistical Board under the U.S.S.R. Council of Ministers.

The U.S.S.R. Council of Ministers shall include the Chairmen of the Councils of Ministers of the Union Republics by virtue of their office.

ARTICLE 71

The U.S.S.R. Government or a Minister of the U.S.S.R., who receives an enquiry from a member of the U.S.S.R. Supreme Soviet, shall give a verbal or written reply on the floor of the respective chamber within no more than three days.

ARTICLE 72

Ministers of the U.S.S.R. shall direct the state administrative sectors which come within the jurisdiction of the U.S.S.R.

ARTICLE 73

Within the terms of reference of their respective Ministries, the Ministers of the U.S.S.R. shall issue orders and instructions on the basis and in pursuance of the laws in force, and also of decisions and orders of the U.S.S.R. Council of Ministers, and shall verify their execution.

ARTICLE 74

U.S.S.R. Ministries shall be either all-Union or Union-Republican.

ARTICLE 75

The all-Union Ministries shall direct the state administrative sectors entrusted to them throughout the territory of the U.S.S.R. either directly or through bodies appointed by them.

ARTICLE 76

The Union-Republican Ministries shall direct the state administrative sectors entrusted to them chiefly through the relevant Ministries of the Union Republics and shall administer directly only a certain limited number of enterprises according to a list approved by the Presidium of the U.S.S.R. Supreme Soviet.

ARTICLE 77

The following Ministries shall be all-Union Ministries:

Ministry of Aircraft Industry;

Ministry of Automobile Industry;
Ministry of Building, Road and Communal Machinery;
Ministry of Chemical and Oil Machine-Building;
Ministry of Chemical Industry;
Ministry of Civil Aviation;
Ministry of Communications Industry;
Ministry of Construction of Enterprises for Oil and Gas Industry;
Ministry of Defence Industry;
Ministry of Electronic Industry;
Ministry of Electrotechnical Industry;
Ministry of Engineering;
Ministry of Engineering for Livestock and Feedingstuff Production;
Ministry of Foreign Trade;
Ministry of Gas Industry;
Ministry of General Engineering;
Ministry of Heavy and Transport Engineering;
Ministry of Instrument-Making, Means of Automation and Control Systems;
Ministry of Machine-Building for

Light and Food Industries and Household Appliances;

Ministry of Machine-Tool and Tool-Making Industry;

Ministry of Medical Industry;

Ministry of Medium Machine-Building;

Ministry of Merchant Marine;

Ministry of Oil Industry;

Ministry of Power Engineering;

Ministry of Pulp and Paper Industry;

Ministry of Radio Industry;

Ministry of Railways;

Ministry of Shipbuilding;

Ministry of Tractor and Agricultural Machine-Building;

Ministry of Transport Building.

ARTICLE 78

The following Ministries shall be Union-Republican Ministries:

Ministry of Agriculture;

Ministry of Building;

Ministry of Building Materials;
Ministry of Coal Industry;
Ministry of Communications;
Ministry of Culture;
Ministry of Defence;
Ministry of Education;
Ministry of Ferrous Metallurgy;
Ministry of Finance;
Ministry of Fisheries;
Ministry of Food;
Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
Ministry of Geological Surveys;
Ministry of Health;
Ministry of Heavy Industry Building;
Ministry of Higher and Secondary
Specialised Education;
Ministry of Industrial Building;
Ministry of Justice;
Ministry of Land Improvement and
Water Conservancy;
Ministry of Light Industry;
Ministry of Meat and Dairy Produce;
Ministry of Mounting and Specialised
Building;

Ministry of Non-Ferrous Metallurgy;
Ministry of Oil Refining and Petro-
chemical Industry;
Ministry of Power and Electrification;
Ministry of Rural Construction;
Ministry of State Purchases;
Ministry of the Interior;
Ministry of Timber and Woodworking
Industry;
Ministry of Trade.



Chapter VI

**ORGANS
OF STATE ADMINISTRATION
IN THE UNION
REPUBLICS**





ARTICLE 79

The Council of Ministers of a Union Republic shall be the highest executive and administrative organ of state power in the Union Republic.

ARTICLE 80

The Council of Ministers of a Union Republic shall be responsible and account-

able to the Supreme Soviet of the Union Republic, or, in recesses of the Republican Supreme Soviet, it shall be accountable to the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Union Republic.

ARTICLE 81

The Council of Ministers of a Union Republic shall issue decisions and orders on the basis and in pursuance of the laws of the U.S.S.R. and of the Union Republic, and of the decisions and orders of the U.S.S.R. Council of Ministers, and shall verify their execution.

ARTICLE 82

The Council of Ministers of a Union Republic shall have the right to suspend decisions and orders of the Councils of

Ministers of its Autonomous Republics, and to revoke decisions and orders of the Executive Committees of the Soviets of Working People's Deputies of its Territories, Regions and Autonomous Regions.

ARTICLE 83

The Council of Ministers of a Union Republic shall be formed by the Supreme Soviet of the Union Republic and consist of:

Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Union Republic;

Vice-Chairmen of the Council of Ministers of the Union Republic;

Ministers;

Chairmen of State Committees, Commissions, and the heads of other departments of the Council of Ministers set up by the Supreme Soviet of the Union Republic in conformity with the Constitution of the Union Republic.

ARTICLE 84

The Ministers of a Union Republic shall direct the state administrative sectors which come within the jurisdiction of the Union Republic.

ARTICLE 85

Within the terms of reference of their respective Ministries, the Ministers of a Union Republic shall issue orders and instructions on the basis and in pursuance of the laws of the U.S.S.R. and of the Union Republic, of the decisions and orders of the U.S.S.R. Council of Ministers and the Council of Ministers of the Union Republic, and of the orders and instructions of the Union-Republican Ministries of the U.S.S.R.

ARTICLE 86

The Ministries of a Union Republic shall be either Union-Republican or Republican.

ARTICLE 87

The Union-Republican Ministries shall direct the state administrative sectors entrusted to them, and shall be subordinate both to the Council of Ministers of the Union Republic and to the corresponding Union-Republican Ministry of the U.S.S.R.

ARTICLE 88

The Republican Ministries shall direct the state administrative sectors entrusted

to them and shall be directly subordinate to the Council of Ministers of the Union Republic.



Chapter VII

**HIGHER ORGANS
OF STATE POWER
IN THE AUTONOMOUS SOVIET
SOCIALIST REPUBLICS**





ARTICLE 89

The Supreme Soviet of an Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic shall be the highest organ of state power in the Autonomous Republic.

ARTICLE 90

The Supreme Soviet of an Autonomous Republic shall be elected by the citizens of the Republic for a term of four years on the basis of representation rates estab-

lished by the Constitution of the Autonomous Republic.

ARTICLE 91

The Supreme Soviet of an Autonomous Republic shall be its sole legislature.

ARTICLE 92

Every Autonomous Republic shall have its own Constitution with due account for the specific features of the Autonomous Republic and drawn up in full conformity with the Constitution of the respective Union Republic.

ARTICLE 93

The Supreme Soviet of an Autonomous Republic shall elect the Presidium of its Supreme Soviet and shall form the Coun-

cil of Ministers of the Autonomous Republic, in accordance with its Constitution.



Chapter VIII

**LOCAL ORGANS
OF STATE POWER**





ARTICLE 94

Soviets of Working People's Deputies shall be the organs of state power in Territories, Regions, Autonomous Regions, National Areas, districts, towns and rural localities (stanitsas, villages, hamlets, kishlaks, auls).

ARTICLE 95

Soviets of Working People's Deputies of Territories, Regions, Autonomous Re-

gions, National Areas, districts, towns and rural localities (stanitsas, villages, hamlets, kishlaks, auls) shall be elected for a term of two years by the working people of the respective Territories, Regions, Autonomous Regions, National Areas, districts, towns and rural localities.

ARTICLE 96

The rate of representation in Soviets of Working People's Deputies shall be determined by the Constitutions of the Union Republics.

ARTICLE 97

Soviets of Working People's Deputies shall guide the work of the organs of administration subordinate to them, ensure the maintenance of law and order, the observance of the laws, the protection of the rights of citizens, direct local eco-

conomic and cultural affairs, draw up and approve local budgets.

ARTICLE 98

Soviets of Working People's Deputies shall adopt decisions and issue orders within the powers vested in them by the laws of the U.S.S.R. and the Union Republic.

ARTICLE 99

The Executive Committees elected by Soviets of Working People's Deputies and consisting of a Chairman, Vice-Chairmen, a Secretary and members shall be executive and administrative organs of the Soviets of Working People's Deputies of Territories, Regions, Autonomous Regions, National Areas, districts, towns and rural localities.

ARTICLE 100

The Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary elected by a Soviet of Working People's Deputies shall make up the executive and administrative organ of the Soviet of Working People's Deputies in a small locality, in accordance with the Constitution of the respective Union Republic.

ARTICLE 101

The executive organ of a Soviet of Working People's Deputies shall be directly accountable both to the Soviet which elected it and to the executive organ of the superior Soviet.



Chapter IX

**THE COURTS OF LAW
AND THE PROCURATOR'S
OFFICE**





ARTICLE 102

Justice in the U.S.S.R. shall be administered by the Supreme Court of the U.S.S.R., the Supreme Courts of the Union Republics, the courts of the Territories, Regions, Autonomous Republics, Autonomous Regions and National Areas, the special courts of the U.S.S.R. set up by decision of the U.S.S.R. Supreme Soviet, and the people's courts.

ARTICLE 103

Cases in all courts shall be heard with the participation of people's assessors,

except in instances specially provided for by law.

ARTICLE 104

The Supreme Court of the U.S.S.R. shall be the highest judicial organ. It shall be charged with the supervision of the judicial activities of the judicial organs of the U.S.S.R. and of the Union Republics within statutory limits.

ARTICLE 105

The Supreme Court of the U.S.S.R. shall be elected by the U.S.S.R. Supreme Soviet for a term of five years.

The Supreme Court of the U.S.S.R. shall include the Chairmen of the Supreme Courts of the Union Republics by virtue of their office.

ARTICLE 106

The Supreme Courts of the Union Republics shall be elected by the Supreme Soviets of these Republics for a term of five years.

ARTICLE 107

The Supreme Courts of the Autonomous Republics shall be elected by the Supreme Soviets of these Republics for a term of five years.

ARTICLE 108

The courts of Territories, Regions, Autonomous Regions and National Areas shall be elected by the Soviets of Working People's Deputies of the respective Territories, Regions, Autonomous Regions and National Areas for a term of five years.

ARTICLE 109

People's judges of district (town) people's courts shall be elected for a term of five years by the citizens of the respective district (town) on the basis of universal, equal and direct suffrage by secret ballot.

People's assessors of the district (town) people's courts shall be elected for a term of two years at general meetings of industrial, office and professional workers, and of peasants at their place of work or residence, and of servicemen in military units.

ARTICLE 110

Judicial proceedings shall be conducted in the language of the Union Republic, or the Autonomous Republic, or the Autonomous Region, as the case may be; persons who do not know that language shall be guaranteed an opportunity to acquaint

themselves fully with the material of a case through an interpreter, and likewise the right to use their own language in court.

ARTICLE 111

In all courts of the U.S.S.R., cases shall be heard in public, unless the law provides otherwise, the accused person shall be guaranteed the right to defence.

ARTICLE 112

Judges shall be independent and subject only to the law.

ARTICLE 113

Supreme supervisory power to ensure the strict observance of the law by all Ministries and the institutions subordinat-

ed to them, as also by officials and other citizens within the U.S.S.R., shall be exercised by the Procurator-General of the U.S.S.R.

ARTICLE 114

The Procurator-General of the U.S.S.R. shall be appointed by the U.S.S.R. Supreme Soviet for a term of seven years.

ARTICLE 115

The Procurators of Republics, Territories, Regions, and also Autonomous Republics and Autonomous Regions shall be appointed by the Procurator-General of the U.S.S.R. for a term of five years.

ARTICLE 116

The Procurators of National Areas, districts and towns shall be appointed for a term of five years by the Procurators

of the Union Republics, subject to approval by the Procurator-General of the U.S.S.R.

ARTICLE 117

The agencies of the Procurator's Office shall perform their duties independently of all local bodies, being subordinate solely to the Procurator-General of the U.S.S.R.



Chapter X

**FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS
AND DUTIES OF CITIZENS**





ARTICLE 118

The citizens of the U.S.S.R. shall have the right to work, that is, the right to guaranteed employment and payment for their work in accordance with its quantity and quality.

The right to work shall be ensured by the socialist organisation of the national economy, the steady growth in the productive forces of Soviet society, the removal of any possibility of economic crises, and the abolition of unemployment.

ARTICLE 119

The citizens of the U.S.S.R. shall have the right to rest and leisure.

The right to rest and leisure shall be ensured by the establishment of a seven-hour working day for industrial, office and professional workers and the reduction of the working day to six hours for arduous trades and to four hours in workshops with particularly arduous conditions of work; by the institution of annual holidays with full pay for industrial, office and professional workers; by the provision of a large number of sanatoriums, holiday homes and clubs for use by the working people.

ARTICLE 120

The citizens of the U.S.S.R. shall have the right to maintenance in old age and also in the event of sickness or disability.

This right shall be ensured by the extensive development of social insurance of industrial, office and professional workers at state expense, by free medical service for the working people, and by placing a large number of health resorts at the disposal of the working people.

ARTICLE 121

The citizens of the U.S.S.R. shall have the right to education.

This right shall be ensured by universal compulsory eight-year education; by extensive development of general secondary polytechnical education, vocational and technical education, secondary specialised and higher education, based on close ties between the school, real life and production; by extensive development of evening and correspondence education; by free education in all schools; by provision of state scholarship grants; by instruction in

schools in the native language; and by the organisation of free vocational, technical and agronomic training for the working people at factories, state farms and collective farms.

ARTICLE 122

Women in the U.S.S.R. shall be accorded equal rights with men in economic, government, cultural, political and other public activities.

These rights shall be ensured by women being accorded the same rights as men in work, remuneration, rest and leisure, social insurance and education, and by state protection of the interests of mother and child, state aid to mothers of large families and to unmarried mothers, maternity leave with full pay, and by provision of a large number of maternity homes, nurseries and kindergartens.

ARTICLE 123

Equality of rights of citizens of the U.S.S.R., irrespective of their nationality or race, in economic, government, cultural, political and other public activities, shall be an indefeasible law.

Any direct or indirect restriction of the rights of, or, conversely, the establishment of direct or indirect privileges for citizens on grounds of race or nationality, likewise any advocacy of racial or national exclusiveness or hatred and contempt, shall be punishable by law.

ARTICLE 124

The church in the U.S.S.R. shall be separated from the state, and the school from the church to ensure freedom of conscience for all citizens. Freedom of religious worship and of anti-religious propaganda shall be recognised for all citizens.

ARTICLE 125

In conformity with the interests of the working people, and for the purpose of strengthening the socialist system, the citizens of the U.S.S.R. shall be guaranteed by law:

- (I) freedom of speech;
- (II) freedom of the press;
- (III) freedom of assembly and rallies;
- (IV) freedom of street processions and demonstrations.

These rights of citizens shall be ensured by putting at the disposal of the working people and their organisations printing presses, stocks of paper, public buildings, streets, communication facilities and other material requisites for the exercise of these rights.

ARTICLE 126

In conformity with the interests of the working people and for the purpose of developing public initiative in organisa-

tion and political activity, the citizens of the U.S.S.R. shall be guaranteed the right to unite in mass organisations—trade unions, co-operative societies, youth organisations, sports and defence organisations, cultural, technical and scientific societies; the most active and politically conscious citizens among the working class, working peasants and working intelligentsia voluntarily unite in the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, which is the vanguard of the working people in their struggle to build communist society and is the leading core of all organisations of the working people, both governmental and non-governmental.

ARTICLE 127

The citizens of the U.S.S.R. shall be guaranteed inviolability of the person. No person shall be placed under arrest except by decision of a court of law or with the sanction of a procurator.

ARTICLE 128

The inviolability of the citizens' homes and privacy of correspondence shall be protected by law.

ARTICLE 129

The U.S.S.R. shall afford the right of asylum to foreign nationals persecuted for upholding the interests of the working people, or for scientific activities, or for struggling for national liberation.

ARTICLE 130

It shall be the duty of every citizen of the U.S.S.R. to abide by the Constitution of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, to observe the laws, to maintain labour discipline, honestly to perform public duties, and to respect the rules of socialist community.

ARTICLE 131

It shall be the duty of every citizen of the U.S.S.R. to safeguard and fortify public, socialist property as the sacred and inviolable foundation of the Soviet system, as the source of the wealth and might of the country, as the source of the prosperity and culture of all the working people.

Persons committing crimes against public, socialist property shall be enemies of the people.

ARTICLE 132

Universal military service shall be statutory.

Military service in the Armed Forces of the U.S.S.R. shall be an honorary duty of citizens of the U.S.S.R.

ARTICLE 133

It shall be the sacred duty of every citizen of the U.S.S.R. to defend the country. Treason to the Motherland—violation of the oath of allegiance, desertion to the enemy, impairing the military power of the state, espionage—shall be punishable with all the severity of the law as the most heinous of crimes.



Chapter XI

**THE ELECTORAL
SYSTEM**





ARTICLE 134

Members of all Soviets of Working People's Deputies—the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R., the Supreme Soviets of the Union Republics, the Soviets of Working People's Deputies of the Territories and Regions, the Supreme Soviets of the Autonomous Republics, the Soviets of Working People's Deputies of the Autonomous Regions, the National Areas, the districts, towns and rural localities (stanitsas, villages, hamlets, kishlaks, auls)—shall be

elected by constituents on the basis of universal, equal and direct suffrage by secret ballot.

ARTICLE 135

Elections of deputies shall be universal: all citizens of the U.S.S.R. who have reached the age of 18, irrespective of race or nationality, sex, religion, education, domicile, social origin, property status or past activities, shall have the right to vote in the election of deputies, with the exception of persons who have been legally certified insane.

Every citizen of the U.S.S.R. who has reached the age of 23 shall be eligible for election to the U.S.S.R. Supreme Soviet, irrespective of race or nationality, sex, religion, education, domicile, social origin, property status or past activities.

ARTICLE 136

Elections of deputies shall be equal: each citizen shall have one vote; all citizens shall participate in elections on equal terms.

ARTICLE 137

Women shall have the right to elect and be elected on equal terms with men.

ARTICLE 138

Citizens serving in the Armed Forces of the U.S.S.R. shall be entitled to elect and be elected on equal terms with all other citizens.

ARTICLE 139

Elections of deputies shall be direct: all Soviets of Working People's Deputies, from the rural and town Soviets to the

U.S.S.R. Supreme Soviet, shall be elected by citizens by direct vote.

ARTICLE 140

Voting at elections of deputies shall be secret.

ARTICLE 141

Candidates for election shall be nominated for each constituency.

The right to nominate candidates shall be ensured for the organisations and societies of working people: Communist Party organisations, trade unions, co-operatives, youth organisations and cultural societies.

ARTICLE 142

It shall be the duty of every deputy to report to the electorate on his or her work

and on the work of the respective Soviet of Working People's Deputies; every deputy may be recalled at any time upon a decision taken by a majority of constituents in the statutory manner.



Chapter XII

**ARMS,
FLAG AND CAPITAL**





ARTICLE 143

The arms of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics shall be a hammer and sickle against a globe depicted in the rays of the sun and surrounded by ears of grain, with the inscription "Workers of All Countries, Unite!" in the languages of the Union Republics. A five-pointed star shall be at the top of the arms.

ARTICLE 144

The state flag of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics shall be of red cloth with the golden hammer and sickle de-

picted in the upper corner near the staff, with a five-pointed red star bordered in gold above them. The ratio of width to length shall be 1 : 2.

ARTICLE 145

The City of Moscow shall be the capital of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.



Chapter XIII

**PROCEDURE
FOR AMENDMENT
TO THE CONSTITUTION**





ARTICLE 146

Amendment to the Constitution of the U.S.S.R. may be adopted by a majority of not less than two-thirds of votes in each of the chambers of the U.S.S.R. Supreme Soviet.



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